

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
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SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/871,840	06/09/97	MOORE	R OSI-112

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33M1/0310

EXAMINER	
PHAM, T	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3309	3

DATE MAILED: 03/10/98

Please find below a communication from the EXAMINER in charge of this application.

Commissioner of Patents

Office Action Summary

Application No. 08/871,840	Applicant(s) Moore et al.
Examiner Tina Pham	Group Art Unit 3309

Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jun 9, 1997

This action is **FINAL**.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle* 1035 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pingleton et al. in Patent No. 5,312,432.

Note Pingleton figure 2, an apparatus comprises of: a primary arm (128) having a first end and a second end; a secondary arm (129) is mounted on the primary arm for longitudinal movement; a pushing member (136, 120) is pivotally connected to an intermediate point of the primary arm and pivotally connected to one end of the secondary arm (129). Note column 4, lines 11-40). The teeth on pushing member (120) can be considered as suture receiving hole since they are capable of receiving a suture.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Patent No. 5,387,221 discloses a needle driving device having two arms and a link connected to two arms.

Patent No. 5,383,877 discloses a suturing instrument.

Patent No. 5,304,185 discloses a needle holder.

Patent No. 5,318,528 discloses a forceps.

Patent No. 5,432,390 discloses a forceps.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Tina D. Pham at telephone number (703) 308-0824. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If an inordinate number of attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor Michael Buiz can be reached at (703) 308-0871. The fax number for the Art Unit is (703) 308-0758.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of the application should be directed to the Group receptionist at (703) 308-0858.

Tina T. D. Pham

March 01, 1998


Michael Powell Buiz
Supervisory Patent Examiner
GAU 3309
3/2/98